

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 SCCT-01 /093 W

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R 141455Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5207

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1117

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0591

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SF, PINS, PINT

SUB: HOT DEBATE CONTINUES ON NEW SECURITY LEGISLATION

REF: CAPE TOWN 571

1. PROMOTION OF STATE SECURITY BILL MOVED THROUGH SECOND
READING STATE MAY 13 WHEN UNITED PARTY MOTION TO REFER BILL
TO SELECT COMMITTEE WAS DEFEATED, AND PRP MOTION TO REJECT
BILL ALSO DEFEATED BY SAME VOTE OF 95 TO 43, WITH UP AND PRP
SUPPORTING EACH OTHER'S MOTIONS. DEBATE WILL CONTINUE
DURING COMMITTEE STAGE IN WHICH A REPORTED 31 INDIVIDUAL
AMENDMENTS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED, RANGING FROM 5 SUBMITTED
BY NATIONAL PARTY MOST SUBSTANTIVE OF WHICH WOULD EMPOWER
STATE PRESIDENT TO REMOVE AND REPLACE CHAIRMAN OF REVIEW
COMMITTEE AT WILL, TO OPPOSITION AMENDMENTS WHICH WOULD
DELETE ALL PREVENTITIVE DETENTION PROVISIONS OR OTHERWISE
BRING MAJOR CHANGES. IN GENERAL, PRP MOTIONS ARE
INTENDED TO GUT THE LEGISLATION WHILE UP
MOTIONS WOULD LIMIT EXECUTIVE POWERS IN VARIOUS WAYS AND
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BRING JUDICIAL PROCESS INTO PLAY.

2. DURING DEBATE MIN JUSTICE KRUGER OFFERED TO SUSPEND FURTHER ACTION ON BILL AND REFER IT TO PARLIAMENTARY INTERNAL SECURITY COMMISSION(MEMBERS OF WHICH HAVE YET TO BE NAMED) IF UNITED PARTY WOULD AGREE TO SERVE ON COMMISSION. UP REJECTED OFFER. KRUGER THEN SAID THAT ALL SECURITY LEGISLATION, ONCE PASSED, WOULD BE REFERRED TO PISCOM IN FUTURE IN ORDER TO DO AWAY WITH OUTDATED LEGISLATION AND BRING IMPROVEMENTS. REPLYING TO HEATED

EXCHANGES ON PROVISION OF SUCH BROAD ARBITRARY POWERS TO MINISTER JUSTICE, KRUGER SAID PREVENTITIVE DETENTION WOULD NOT BE DONE ARBITRARILY BUT ONLY AFTER HE HAD GIVEN MATTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AN OBSERVATION WHICH REPORTEDLY BROUGHT JEERS FROM OPPOSITION. HE SAID AUTHORITY NEEDED TO PERMIT EXECUTIVE ACTION IN SITUATIONS WHICH FELL SHORT OF DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY BUT REQUIRED PROMPT RESPONSE.

3. SOME NATIONALIST SPEECHES CALLED FOR FURTHER EXTENSIONS OF EXECUTIVE POWER, AND INCLUDED OBSERVATION THAT ANYONE WHO OPPOSED SECURITY LEGISLATION MUST HIMSELF HARBOR SUBVERSIVE THOUGHTS. UP LEADER GRAAFF SAID BILL WAS SYMPTOMATIC OF FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO COPE WITH BASIC PROBLEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA. NO SECURITY LEGISLATION COULD REMEDY PROBLEM UNLESS GOVERNMENT DISMANTLES DISCRIMINATION. HE REPEATED EARLIER UP CALL FOR LEGISLATION TO DEFINE SPECIFIC ACTS AS CRIMINAL AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC PENALTIES AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES.

4. ANOTHER ASPECT OF DEBATE HAS BEEN RENEWED VITRIOLIC ATTACKS ON PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY FOR ITS "DISLOYAL-ATTITUDES. NATIONAL PARTY MPS HAVE LED ASSULT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM UP MEMBERS. LEADER OF OPPOSITION, SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF TOLD HOUSE, MAY 13 THAT PRP "IS SOFT ON SECURITY" AND THAT "SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT SAFE IN THE HANDS OF A PARTY LIKE THAT". NATS HAVE CRITICIZED UP'S STAND ON BILL BUT HAVE DIRECTED FULL FORCE OF FIRE AT PRP. MIN JUSTICE KRUGER WARNED HELEN SUZMAN THAT HER POSITION WAS BEING USED BY "SUBVERSIVES". IN SAME DAY'S UNCLASSIFIED

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SENATE DEBATE ON BUDGET MATTERS, MIN FINANCE HORWOOD RESUSCITATED HIS "PRP AS FIFTH COLUMN" CHARGE, BRANDED IT AN "UN-SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY" AND VOWED THAT IT MUST BE "DESTROYED". HORWOOD ADDED THAT THE DESTRUCTION WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE "WILL OF THE ELECTORATE". HE CHARGED PRP WITH RAISING EXPECTATIONS AMONG BLACK AND NON-WHITE GROUPS WHICH NOBODY COULD HOPE TO FULFILL,AND SAID THEY ADVOCATED PHILOSOPHY ALIEN TO SOUTH AFRICANS.

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